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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Bert Vogelstein, *et al.*

Application Serial No.: 09/981,356

Filed: October 12, 2001

For: DIGITAL AMPLIFICATION

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) Group Art Unit: TBA
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) Examiner: TBA
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) Docket No.: 001107.00195
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Director of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified application, kindly amend the application as follows. No fee is believed due to make this response timely filed. If any fee is due please charge our deposit account number 19-0733.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add new claims 104-108.

104. (New) A molecular beacon probe comprising:

B¹
an oligonucleotide comprising a stem and a loop structure and having a photoluminescent dye at one of the 5' or 3' ends and a quenching agent at the opposite 5' or 3' end, wherein the loop consists of 14-26 bases and has a T_m of 50-51°C, and wherein the stem consists of 4 base pairs having a sequence 5'-CACG-3'.

105. (New) The molecular beacon probe of claim 104, wherein the probe detects a wild-type nucleic acid better than a mutant nucleic acid.